

XXXIV.—A new *Jerboa* from China.

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HITHERTO the only *Jerboa* known from China has been the five-toed *Allactaga mongolica*, Radde (*A. annulata*, M.-Edw.), and it has therefore been with much interest that I have examined a three-toed species from Shensi, recently presented to the National Museum by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby. It proves to be a distinct form allied to *Dipus sagitta*, Pall., and may be characterized as follows:—

*Dipus sowerbyi*, sp. n.

Size considerably greater than in *D. sagitta* and its close ally *D. deasyi*, B. Ham. General colour sandy buff varying towards fawn, more or less darkened along the dorsal area. White lines on rump well defined, prominent. Head and ears like body. Outer side of legs, from knees to ankles, rich buffy, contrasting markedly with the pure white of their inner surfaces. Fore limbs, whole of under surface, and hind feet pure white, the long hairs under the toes slightly suffused with buffy; a narrow line under heel blackish. Tail buffy or pale fawn above, white below; the terminal half-inch white, the blackish band preceding it about three quarters of an inch in length.

Skull comparatively stout and heavy, its muzzle particularly broad, broader in proportion to the brain-case than in the other species. Thus the breadth of the muzzle halfway along the nasals is quite half the least interorbital breadth, considerably less than half in *D. deasyi* and *sagitta*. Bullæ larger than in *D. deasyi*, but of course not approaching their development in the genus *Jaculus*.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 116 mm.; tail 169; hind foot 65; ear 22.

Skull: greatest length 34.5; basilar length 25.8; greatest breadth 22; nasals 12.5; breadth of muzzle 5.2; interorbital breadth 10; breadth of brain-case 18.3; palatilar length 16.7; palatal foramina 5.7 × 3; length of upper tooth-row (molars only) 5.5.

*Hab.* Yu-lin-fu, Shensi, China. Alt. 4000'.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 8. 7. 31. 2. Original number 1790. Collected 29 April, 1908, and presented by Mr. Arthur de C. Sowerby. Two specimens.

Of the two specimens, both taken the same day, the younger, curiously enough, is much the brighter of the two, being nearly as bright a buffy as *D. sagitta*, while the older specimen (the type) is more drabby in tone.

The discovery of this *Jerboa* extends very greatly the known range of the three-toed *Jerboas*, which had hitherto not been recorded east of Central Asia.

This animal, with its close allies *D. sagitta* and *D. deasyi*, is clearly distinct generically from the other three-toed *Jerboas*, and in finding a name to use for it I have had to examine the generic nomenclature of the group with such care and completeness as to enable me to claim the position of "first reviser" in the selection of types for certain of the generic names.

The genera in question, with their characters and types, would appear to be as follows:—

JACULUS, Erxl., 1777. Type *Jaculus jaculus* (*Mus jaculus*, Linn.), the smaller Egyptian *Jerboa*.

Three hind toes. Three cheek-teeth only.

Type selected by tautonymy, "*Mus jaculus*" being placed as a synonym of *Jaculus orientalis*.

DIPUS, Zimm. \* Geogr. Gesch. ii. p. 354 (1780). Type *Dipus sagitta* (*Mus sagitta*, Pall.).

Three hind toes. Four upper cheek-teeth.

The other species being exotic and otherwise unsuitable, the type of this name has obviously to be either *Mus jaculus*, Pallas (*nec* Linn.), the five-toed Russian *Jerboa*, or *M. sagitta*, Pall., the small three-toed species. Both elimination and expediency indicate that the latter should be selected as the type.

ALLACTAGA, F. Cuv. P. Z. S. 1836, p. 141. Type *Mus jaculus*, Pall. Five-toed *Jerboa*.

SCIRTOPODA, Brandt, Bull. Ac. Pétersb. ii. p. 212 (1844). Type *Dipus mauritanicus*, Duv. (equal or closely allied to *Jaculus gerboa*, Oliv., the large Egyptian *Jerboa*).

HALTICUS, id. t. c. p. 213. Type *Dipus halticus*, Ill.

HALTOMYS, id. t. c. p. 215. Type *Dipus mauritanicus*, Duv.

None of Brandt's names standing for valid groups there is no need to explain in detail my selections of their respective types.

The other names in the group do not need any special examination.

*Dipus*, with its type *D. sagitta*, is therefore the proper name for the genus to which *D. sowerbyi* belongs. This genus is readily distinguishable from *Jaculus* both by the persistence of the small upper premolar, absent in *Jaculus*, and by the much less development of the bullæ, which do not surpass the occiput posteriorly. The molars also are slightly more complex.

\* Zimmermann quotes Schreber's plates 228 and 229, and if these were really already published the name should date from them, but it would not alter the conclusions here come to. Sherborn puts down their date of publication as 1782, two years later than Zimmermann's book.